

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A dishwasher comprising:

at least one washing container for receiving items to be handled, with the items to be handled being subjected to an operative handling cycle including at least one of a washing step, and a rinsing step ~~and a drying step~~ wherein the washing step includes introduction of a cleaning agent and a fluid carrier forming a washing fluid and the rinsing step includes introduction of a rinsing fluid; and a system for recognition of the fluid level of the rinsing fluid contained in the dishwasher, the fluid level recognition system having at least one capacitive filling level sensor having at least two probes, forming two capacitor ~~plate~~plates, each operatively coupled to a sensor surface and projecting into the washing container for operative contact with the rinsing fluid, thereby using the rinsing fluid as a dielectric having a dielectric constant that changes with the fill level of the rinsing fluid, wherein at a first fill level the probes and the rinsing fluid form a capacitor having a first capacitance value indicating a first fill level and causing the filling level sensor to sense the first fill level and at a second fill level the probes and the rinsing fluid form a capacitor having a second capacitance value indicating a second fill level and causing the filling level sensor to sense the second fill level, wherein at least one filling level sensor is arranged in a base assembly such that rinsing fluid that has flowed from the washing container into the base assembly can be detected.

12. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the filling level sensor is in the form of a capacitor whose electrical capacitance varies

depending on the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the filling level sensor.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A dishwasher ~~according to claim 11~~comprising:
at least one washing container for receiving items to be handled, with the items to be handled being subjected to an operative handling cycle including at least one of a washing step and a rinsing step wherein the washing step includes introduction of a cleaning agent and a fluid carrier forming a washing fluid and the rinsing step includes introduction of a rinsing fluid; and
a system for recognition of the fluid level of the rinsing fluid contained in the dishwasher, the fluid level recognition system having at least one capacitive filling level sensor having at least two probes, forming two capacitor plates, each operatively coupled to a sensor surface and projecting into the washing container for operative contact with the rinsing fluid, thereby using the rinsing fluid as a dielectric having a dielectric constant that changes with the fill level of the rinsing fluid, wherein at a first fill level the probes and the rinsing fluid form a capacitor having a first capacitance value indicating a first fill level and causing the filling level sensor to sense the first fill level and at a second fill level the probes and the rinsing fluid form a capacitor having a second capacitance value indicating a second fill level and causing the filling level sensor to sense the second fill level, wherein at least two filling level sensors are provided between which an electrical circuit preferably closes at low current as soon as the filling level sensors simultaneously come in contact with the rinsing fluid.
14. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises electronic means which preferably qualitatively and quantitatively detect the electrical capacitance or the electrical conductivity of the filling level sensor and its variation.
15. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises a number of capacitive filling level sensors which are preferably arranged at the height of specific fluid levels on the washing container.

16. (Canceled)
17. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises a filling level sensor by which means at least two different fluid levels can be determined.
18. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the filling level sensor has an extended, preferably substantially rectangular shape.
19. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the filling level sensor is located inside the washing container preferably at a position protected from spray water.
20. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein a fixing side of the filling level sensor is provided with a self-adhesive layer.